



HALE AHI NEWS

MARCH 2006



HFD QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER
January - March 2006

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IMPORTANT DATES

- **Monday, April 24, 2006**
89th FF Recruit Graduation
Pacific Beach Hotel
- **Wednesday, April 26, 2006**
Administrative Professionals' Day
- **Friday, May 5, 2006**
Boy's Day
- **Sunday, May 14, 2006**
Mother's Day
- **Monday, May 29, 2006**
Memorial Day (observed)
- **Friday, June 9, 2006 9:30 am**
HFD Retirees Association
Quarterly Meeting
Charles H. Thurston Training
Center
- **Monday, June 12, 2006**
Kamehameha Day
- **Sunday, June 18, 2006**
Father's Day

CHANGE OF COMMAND FIRE CHIEF KENNETH G. SILVA

On January 17, 2006, the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) conducted a Change of Command Ceremony. The ceremony marked the transfer of leadership between the 32nd Fire Chief, Attilio K. Leonardi, and Kenneth G. Silva, the 33rd Fire Chief. Also recognized during the ceremony were retired Deputy Fire Chief John Clark and current Deputy Fire Chief Alvin K. Tomita.



Fire Chiefs Kenneth G. Silva and
Attilio K. Leonardi

In the 155 years that the HFD has been in existence, this was the second such ceremony to take place. The first ceremony took place on April 16, 1998, between Fire Chief Anthony Lopez Jr. and Fire Chief Designate Attilio K. Leonardi.

The Change of Command symbolizes the transfer of total responsibility, authority, and accountability from one individual to another. This ensures that the HFD, its members, and the City and County of Honolulu citizens have continuous leadership during the transition of a retiring Fire Chief and a newly designated Fire Chief.

The event demonstrated the HFD's unique, rich tradition and culture as a City

agency. Some of the highlights included participation by the HFD Honor Guard, a professional performance by our own Ahi Wela, and a first-class Master of Ceremony, Battalion Chief Edward Simeona.

The ceremony also included the Oath of Office, the signing of the official documents, the pinning of the badges, the transfer of the speaking trumpet, and an acceptance speech by Chief Silva.

Many dignitaries were present to witness and be a part of the historical event. In attendance were HFD Chief Officers, Company Officers and their staff, Mayor Mufi Hannemann, the Honolulu Fire Commission, the Honolulu City Council, retired HFD Fire Chiefs, Fire Chiefs from Hawaii State and Federal departments, the Pacific Air Force Command Hawaii, a Canadian Fire Commissioner, and many family and friends.

For an event like this to be as successful as it was required the efforts, generosity, and kokua from many individuals. The HFD Community Relations Office, Support Services, and various HFD companies provided apparatuses, equipment, special expertise, and manpower.

Special mahalos to Naomi Carter, a Department of Parks and Recreation retiree, for her beautiful floral arrangements and to Wayne Panoke, Recreation Specialist from the Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts.

For those of you who were unable to attend or want to relive the experience, a video production of the event is in the process of being completed and will soon be available on the HFD intranet.



**PRIDE, SERVICE,
DEDICATION**

**Honolulu Fire Department
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Mission Statement

The mission of the Honolulu Fire Department is to respond to fires, emergency medical incidents, hazardous materials incidents, and rescues on land and sea to save lives, property, and the environment. We accomplish this mission by:

- Promoting safety and maintaining a well-equipped, highly-trained, and motivated force of professional fire fighters and rescue personnel.
- Promoting fire prevention and other public safety education programs.

Vision Statement

The Honolulu Fire Department will continuously strive to meet the changing needs of our community by providing a modern and technologically advanced department. We will do this by maintaining a high level of readiness and by focusing on the professional development and training of all our personnel.

MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

This edition of the Hale Ahi News marks the first time for me to address everyone using this platform. I would like to begin by saying that it is an honor and a privilege to serve as the 33rd Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). I am very fortunate to be placed in the position to lead a great fire department with so many dedicated and professional employees. It motivates me to know that I am surrounded by very talented and committed fire fighters, from the Fire Fighter I level to the Executive Staff.

In addition to the uniformed staff, I would also like to commend the great work of our civilian employees, who keep our organization running smoothly on a daily basis. Mahalo to our clerical personnel, computer section, storeroom, and mechanic and radio shops. Our HFD ohana is the best in the United States because of the combined efforts of everyone working towards a common goal to better serve our community.

As your Fire Chief, I bring 24 years of experience of coming up through the ranks, and I have a clear understanding of where we are as a department. I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to be exposed to the operational needs of a department of our size. My experience as a Fire Prevention Bureau Battalion Chief (BC) and as an Assistant Chief of Support Services allowed me to be exposed to the administrative side of the organization.

As a department and as an administration, we are in the process of carrying out a 100-day plan with the intent of establishing a clear vision and direction for the HFD for the next one, three, five, and ten years. The idea is to create an organizational master plan



that is clearly understood and supported by everyone associated with the HFD. It will be our plan, and we can all take ownership in it.

Our 100-day plan is comprised of four major components which include an external audit, an internal audit, a review and evaluation of the strategic goals and recommendations gathered from the 2005 Commission on Fire Accreditation International accreditation process, and information gathered from an Executive Retreat, a BC Workshop, and a retreat with the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association's leadership.

I would like to conclude by expressing to all of you that the fire service is a dynamic industry. As a major metropolitan fire department, we must be flexible and cognizant of current trends and industry requirements.

Once again, I want to thank all of you for the support I have received and for giving me the opportunity to lead a great organization in the best city and state in the world.

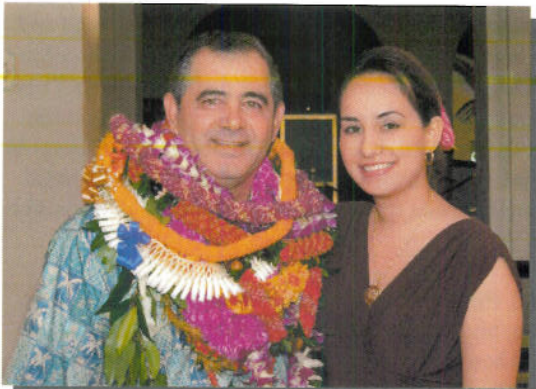
Serving with Distinction

Celebrating "A Lifetime of Achievement" by Fire Captain William H. Melemai III

The setting sun cast soothing shadows of a golden hue on the slopes of Diamond Head while the rolling tropical surf off beautiful Waikiki beach sparkled like glittering stars, and musical strings of the islands serenaded all at twilight.

It was there, on this memorable evening of January 28, 2006, that retired Fire Chief Attilio K. Leonardi received his guests on the beautifully manicured lawn fronting the Monarch Ballroom of the historic Royal Hawaiian Hotel.

Professional colleagues, family members, and close friends joined in fun and fellowship to celebrate Chief Leonardi's retirement and the end of an era.



Chief Leo with daughter Christina

Musical wizard Captain Billy Beimes was on saxophone and vocals/guitarist Tito Berinobis enhanced the already festive and joyful atmosphere. Jaime Lynn Leonardi honored her grandpa with a special hula performance. Delicious appetizers provided by Fire Inspector Richard Karasaki Jr. and retired Captain Francis Puana were a delightful prelude to the Hawaiian buffet-style dinner.

After the guests were ushered into the ballroom, Chief Leonardi's son, Attilio, effortlessly served as the evening's emcee. He introduced the Celtic Pipes and Drums of Hawaii, who paid tribute to Chief Leonardi by performing "Honolulu Fire Brigade," which was composed by band member Alan Miyamura in honor of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). Fifteen bagpipe musicians, led by drum majors Dan Quinn and Tina Yap, were an impressive sight on stage.

Brenda Hankins of the Fire Prevention Bureau delivered a beautiful blessing prior to dinner expressing appreciation and gratitude for Chief Leonardi's enumerable contributions to the HFD. Hawaiian music aficionados were treated to the exquisite stylings of Fire Fighter II Kalei Davis and Fire Fighter Is Lopaka Hoopii and Ocean Kaowili, a.k.a. "Ahi Wela," who provided the dinner entertainment. Gracing the stage with them was hula beauty and sister of Chief Leonardi, Jonarie Correa. The "Halau O' Leonardi Granddaughters" also charmed the audience with their remarkable talents.

There were seven guest speakers. Ray Bizal, Western Manager of the National Fire Protection Association, was first to speak. He

was followed by Boisse Correa, Chief of Police, who shared a number of humorous anecdotes. Sandra Au Fong, former Honolulu Fire Commission Commissioner, expressed how fortunate the HFD was to have Chief Leonardi at the helm due to his outstanding leadership capabilities.

Robert Lee, President of the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association, created quite a stir when he made a surprise presentation to the Chief of a life-sized union seal from International Association of Fire Fighters General President Harold A. Schaitberger. Retired Deputy Fire Chief John Clark had the audience howling with laughter at the PowerPoint presentation that he and I prepared. He portrayed Chief Leonardi in a comical but tasteful way, creatively "enhancing" a variety of photos and displaying them with masterful comedic timing. He outlined the significant achievements and milestones that Chief Leonardi accomplished, such as obtaining accreditation, upgrading equipment, apparatus, and training, securing the title to the Charles H. Thurston Training Center, and construction of our permanent headquarters. He also paid the ultimate compliment when he suggested that history would eventually show Chief Leonardi to be among the all-time greatest HFD Fire Chiefs. None in the audience could disagree. Alvin Tomita, Deputy Fire Chief, thanked Chief Leonardi for his years of steady leadership and guidance. Newly appointed Fire Chief Kenneth Silva also expressed appreciation for Chief Leonardi's excellence as Fire Chief.

Chief Leonardi spoke of the privilege and honor of serving as Fire Chief. He was thankful for his 35-year career and looked forward to whatever the future held for him. He appreciated the efforts of so many generous, caring, and hard working people who made his special evening an "awesome" experience.

The night's festivities closed with an electrifying performance by FireHouse, whose band members include Captains Beimes, Vernon Enriques on bass, Lee Muller on electric guitar, Lance Orillo on lead vocals and guitar, and a surprise appearance by Retired Captain Edward Gabriel on percussions.

Mahalo Nui Loa, Chief "Leo," for your visionary leadership that allowed you to respect the contributions of the past, focus on meeting the demands of the present, and pass on to future generations of fire fighters your sense of pride, service, and dedication to keep the HFD among the finest on the planet.

Congratulations on your retirement, and may your life be enjoyable, relaxing, and carefree.



HISTORY OF THE HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT'S FIREMEN'S FUND, INCORPORATED

by Battalion Chief Hiram Keliipio

(Author's note: A historical account of the Honolulu Fire Department's [HFD] Firemen's Fund, Inc. [Fund] has never been done. This information was gathered from various documents and through interviews with retired Fire Chiefs Richard Young and Donald Chang, retired Battalion Chief Herbert Roch, and retired Fire Captain Alexander Beck Sr.)

The Fund traces its humble beginnings back to 1925. The occupation of fire fighting was classified as a "high risk" profession, and firemen were unable to obtain life insurance. Thus, in 1926, the "Widows and Orphans Fund" was established by four prominent local businessmen, Bill Lederer, Fire Chief Charles H. Thurston, and Assistant Chiefs William W. Blaisdell and Edward Boyle. The Fire Chief served as President of the organization until 1970. Thereafter, elections determined who would serve as President.

Proceeds from fund-raising events such as the annual Firemen's Ball and Firemen's Carnival were used to fund life insurance premiums for all firemen. Designated beneficiaries were given \$250 to defray the cost of funeral expenses, a burial plot for the member so that "our brother may have a final resting place," and educational assistance for the children of deceased members.

World War II halted the annual Ball, so the Fund used other fund-raising avenues to pay for the insurance premiums. These included selling tickets to various events such as the dedication of the Honolulu International Center (the Neal S. Blaisdell Center) and the openings of the Hawaii Islander baseball seasons. The Firemen's Carnivals were the most profitable and popular fund-raising activities. Although the carnivals included rides and games, most of the profits came from the sales of huli-huli chicken plate lunches, fresh fruits and vegetables, and many varieties of plants. Every fire station was given a responsibility, such as cooking the chicken, and all HFD members worked tirelessly to ensure that the carnivals were a success.

In 1962, Fire Chief William K. Blaisdell was able to attain nonprofit status for the Widows and Orphans Fund, which then officially changed its name to the HFD Firemen's Fund, Inc.

The membership later voted to discontinue the carnivals, as most of its members could not commit the time and effort required for the project's success. The last carnival was held at the Kapiolani Regional Park Bandstand.

Fund-raising activities ceased in 1975, and members who wanted to maintain their insurance coverage were responsible for their premiums. To maintain the Fund's financial stability and perpetuate its benefits, the membership voted to pay monthly dues.

In the early 1980s, the Fund's accountants and tax advisors

reviewed the financial condition of the organization and found that monies had been collected from its members but no benefits were returned. In order to maintain its nonprofit status, the Board of Directors decided to host free annual picnics for all members and their families. The first picnic was held at Ala Moana Beach Park. The following year, the picnic moved to Kalama Beach Park and remained there through the years. Escalating costs discontinued the picnics and in its place, the Fund supports the Department's annual outing at Hawaiian Waters Adventure Park.

Several key components have been added to the Fund over the past few years. On June 29, 1995, Fund President Craig Matthew, along with the Fund's advisors, established the HFD Firemen's Fund Foundation (Foundation), which is recognized as a 501(c)(3) corporation. Seed money for the Foundation came from the Fund and private donors, several of whom have donated monies throughout the years (The Doris Duke Foundation and the Mau Family Trust made annual contributions to the Fund). The Foundation is the primary vehicle through which donations are received and dispersed exclusively for the educational assistance of children of deceased members. A major benefit to the donors is that their contributions are tax deductible.

On July 19, 2000, Fund President Clinton Wong worked with all county governing bodies to implement the Fund's vehicle license plate program. These special license plates display the red Maltese cross containing the words "Hawaii Fire Fighter." When these license plates are purchased, a portion of the fee is remitted to the Fund, and the check is deposited directly into the Foundation's account. The benefits to the individual are two-fold: displaying one's pride in being a fire fighter and contributing to the educational assistance of the children of deceased members.

A final component was implemented last year when the newly elected Board of Directors ordered an auditing of all of the Fund's operations. The findings resulted in the reorganization of many of the operational components of the Fund, with emphasis placed on the accountability of the Fund's financial status. The Fund's Treasurer, Fire Fighter I Nolan Nip, has utilized his prior experience in the banking and financial industry to update the Fund's reporting and accounting procedures. A report of the Fund will be presented at the annual meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for April 2006. Members are encouraged to attend the meeting, as the Board of Directors will propose several changes to the bylaws of the Fund. The last revision of the bylaws was done in 1972.

Due to the continuing support of our members, the Fund remains "devoted to the welfare of our members and their families."

HOW CAN I HELP?

1. Update your address and beneficiary designation.
2. Purchase a special license plate for your vehicle(s).
3. Volunteer to serve on a committee by calling the Fund office at 533-2595.
4. Attend our annual dinner, as all proceeds will benefit the Fund and the Foundation. (See **FUND**, page 5)

RETIREES' REALM

by Fire Captain Gideon Awa, Retired

Retirees Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 9, 2006, 9:30 a.m., at the Honolulu Fire Department's (HFD) Charles H. Thurston Training Center. Future meetings are scheduled for September 8 and December 8 and will be held at the same location. Retirees will be notified by mail of any changes. The Retirees Association extends an invitation to all newly retired HFD members to join with fellow retirees as "new" members.

Legislative Update: The HFD Retirees Association continues to monitor bills with the Twenty-third Legislature that may affect all retirees. There are approximately 40-50 proposed bills being monitored relating to: 1) Prescription Drugs, 2) Long-Term Care, 3) Public Employee Health Benefits or the Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust, 4) the Employee Retirement System, 5) Caregiver Tax Credit/Reimbursement, 6) Rehiring of Retirees, and 7) Health Benefits Plan Supplement to Medicare.

Reminders:

1. **Review changes to your benefits relating to the Firemen's Fund, Inc.** (i.e., insurance policy, membership dues, and funeral benefits [Plan A - Burial in a plot owned by the fund or Plan B - Other burial or disposal of ash/total benefits and additional funeral benefits for your spouse or dependent children]).
2. **Update your personal information with the Firemen's Fund, Inc.** (i.e., beneficiary, change of address, etc.).

Note: The Firemen's Fund, Inc. was amended in March 2004. Battalion Chief Hiram Keliipio is the Chair, and Retired Fire Chief Donald Chang is the elected representative for the retirees on the Firemen's Fund, Inc. Board of Directors.

HFD Retirees Association: The Association wishes to receive correspondence from retirees regarding their present location or any other information to share with fellow retirees. Contact Retired Fire Chief Donald Chang at (808) 487-8862.

HFD FIREMEN'S FUND

(continued from page 4)

THE FUND'S BENEFITS:

1. Upon a member's death, the member's beneficiary selects to receive a burial plot for the member's interment or \$1,500.
2. Children of a deceased member receive \$500 - \$700 per year in educational assistance, depending upon the child's grade level (includes college).
3. Upon the death of a spouse of a member in good standing, the member receives \$1,150 to help defray funeral costs.

THE FUND'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Francis Andrews	Alexander Beck Jr.*
Donald Chang*	Val Freitas*
Hiram K. Keliipio	Nolan Nip
Sigmund Oka	Terry Seelig
Jeffrey Wallace	

*Retired



WINDWARD FIREFIGHTERS VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

by Fire Captain Damien Kahaulelio

The Windward Firefighters Volleyball (WWFFV) League was run from September 19 to December 6, 2005, at the outdoor courts of the Kailua Recreation Center. The league featured 22 teams ("A," "B," and "C" divisions), with entrants varying from the Fire Communication Center to as far away as Quint 26!

The team of Battalion 2/1 beat out Station 29/1 to become the "B" division champions. The team members were Keola Young 29/1, Joey Condlin 26/1, Kaniala Sheldon 7/1, and Chris Akiona 5/1.

The final match for the "A" division championship pitted the team of Station 9/3 against the team from Administration. After a gritty three games, the battle ended with the "A" team of Administration victorious. Chris Ah Mook Sang said of the match, "It was a very hard-fought win. We really had to earn that victory from those guys. They're surely a team to be reckoned with."

The Windward league has enjoyed a long history, and as in past years, Retired Fire Captain Kevin Akiona ran the WWFFV League. Captain Akiona stated, "I'm not sure how long the league has been in existence, but it probably started up around 1980 by Fire Fighter Reimers Makaila from E18/3."

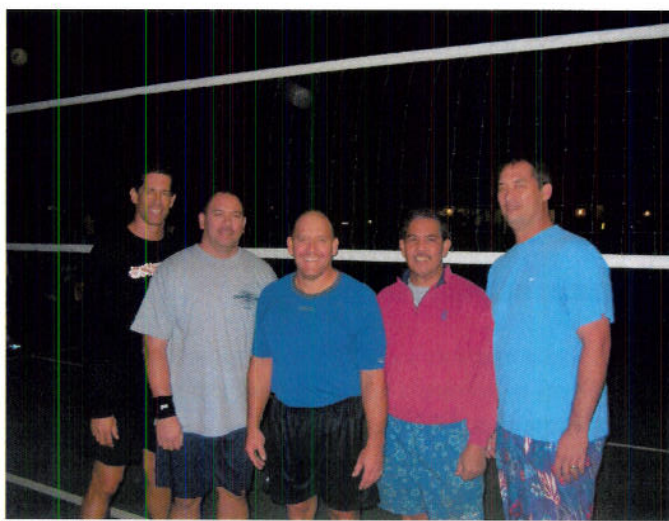
"I believe the original intent ... was to have a league on the windward side for the windward fire fighters to ease the burden of having to drive to and from town before and especially after games. Federal fire fighters were also invited and fielded strong teams throughout the years. As the years went on, EMS personnel joined in the fun, as many already participated with fire fighters while on duty. I believe "D" Battalion (West Oahu) also ran their own league, and the rest of the Department participated in a league played at Paki Park. League division champs would meet at year's end for bragging rights. As the years passed, many of the leagues died off, and the WWFFV League was opened up to the entire Department."

As multiple-league champions, the Akiona family "inherited" the duties of running the league each year. Captain Akiona noted, "The responsibilities remained with us, as Aaron and myself were stationed at Kailua for most of our careers. I believe the league went idle for three or four years, but with the urging of fire fighters, it was brought back."

Congratulations again to all participants in this year's league, and we look forward to seeing all of you next year!



Windward Firefighters Volleyball League "C" Division Champs. They were one of two retiree teams entered in this year's league. From L to R: Claudney Iona, Peter Neifert, Ray Lum, William Andrade, Randy Ishihara and Ron McKee (front). Missing from picture are Jack Denis and Dave Mortensen. The Retirees defeated a team from E8/1 in straight sets to win the title.



The "A" Division Champs: Laanui Akana, Chris Ah Mook Sang, Ken Silva, John Leong, and James Todd.

Report Near-Miss Incidents on www.firefighternearmiss.com

When fire fighters experience near-miss incidents, they may share the lessons learned with their fellow fire fighters around the firehouse kitchen table. But now, a new program will allow fire fighters to share their lessons learned with other fire fighters from around the country.

The National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System, www.firefighternearmiss.com, is a virtual kitchen table where fire fighters can report near-miss incidents and review submitted reports to learn from others' experiences. This confidential, voluntary, nonpunitive, and secure program will revolutionize how we in the fire service share our lessons learned.

The information gathered by near-miss reports will be reviewed by fire service experts to identify patterns. These patterns can then be incorporated into safer operations and training. The information will then be disseminated to the fire service community via program reports, press releases, and e-mail alerts.

What is near-miss reporting?

A near-miss is an unintentional, unsafe occurrence that could have resulted in an injury, fatality, or property damage. Only a fortunate break in the chain-of-events prevented an injury, fatality, or property damage. Situations that qualify as near-misses are essentially in the eyes of the reporter.

Near-miss reporting systems are used to gather information to prevent unsafe occurrences from happening in the future. They focus on identifying patterns that highlight systematic problems that need to be addressed.

How does the program work?

Reporters simply log on to www.firefighternearmiss.com, answer a few questions regarding themselves, their department, and the event, and fill out two narratives: one on the actual near-miss event and another on the lessons learned from the incident. Reporters can also download a blank report and mail or fax it to the near-miss program.

Reports are read and analyzed by a reviewer, who will remove or generalize any names, departments, dates, times, and other related information in order to protect the identity of the reporter. Reviewers code the reports into a database in order to identify patterns. Once the report is de-identified and reviewed for content, it may be posted on the website for other fire fighters to use as a learning tool.

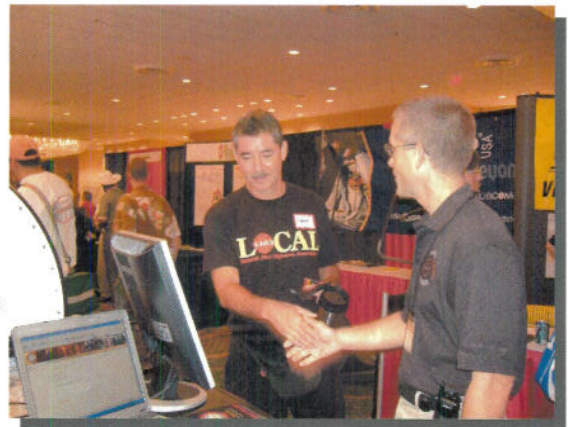
The National Fire Fighter Near-Miss Reporting System posted its 500th report during the first week of January 2006. According to task force members from other industries, the number of reports accumulated in such a short time frame is an important milestone because it indicates the system is trusted and accepted as valid by fire service members.

A program kit explaining the system is available for download from iafc.org/nearmiss. Members wishing to obtain a paper copy should contact staff at nearmiss@iafc.org. Type "program kit" in the subject line and include a mailing address.

The "Report of the Week" continues to gain in popularity and use. Each Friday, system reviewers select a report that has particular merit or is relative to current events in the fire service. A series of five follow-up questions are provided to provoke discussion. E-mail nearmiss@iafc.org and type "subscribe-HI" in the subject line to begin receiving your Report of the Week.

This project is funded by grants from the Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program and Fireman's Fund Insurance Company. It is supported by Chief Billy Goldfeder of FirefighterCloseCalls.com in mutual dedication for fire fighter safety and survival. The system is also endorsed by the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFC) and the Volunteer and Combination Officers' Section of the IAFC.

For more information, visit www.firefighternearmiss.com, e-mail nearmiss@iafc.org, or call 703-273-9815, extension 364.



HFD Welcomes Home Its Returning Soldiers

by Battalion Chief Hiram Keliipio

ALDANN RICO

Fire Fighter I Aldann Rico has returned safely from his deployment to Kuwait! In August 2004, Aldann's Hawaii Army National Guard unit (1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery - Bravo Battery) was placed on active duty. To honor Aldann for his service to our country, the fire fighters at Station 39 created a special ribbon that was placed on the front of his station while he remained on active duty. An article in the October 2004 newsletter told the story of Aldann's ribbon. After the article circulated, ribbons were attached to the fronts of other fire stations in honor of that station's fire fighter who had been deployed. Fire fighters who were activated and deployed were Mark Inouye (E24/3), Lincoln Ishii (E30/3), David Kahanu Jr. (E41/3), Joseph Laurel (E22/2), Aleksander Naluai (E13/3), Clyde Pelekai (E30/1), and Jonathan Wong (E15/2).



When Aldann returned to us recently, he took down his ribbon. Joining Aldann are the members of Engine 39/1st (left to right): Fire Fighter Is Pat Tosaki and David Leandro, Aldann, Fire Captain Raymond Anami, and Fire Fighter III Eric (Paki) Morgado, the designer of the ribbon. The HFD ohana wishes to express our sincere appreciation to Aldann and all of our fire fighters for their service to our country!

MARK INOUE

Fire Fighter I Mark Inouye has also returned safely from his deployment to Afghanistan. In August 2004, Mark, a Major in his Hawaii National Guard Unit (1st Battalion, 487th Field Artillery - Headquarters and Headquarters Service Battery), was placed on active duty. Upon Mark's return to HFD duty at Station 24, he removed his ribbon that was affixed to the front of his station. The HFD ohana wishes to express our sincere appreciation to Mark for his service to our country.



HFD SOFTBALL LEAGUE

by FF III BRIAN MACTAGONE

The HFD Softball League ended its season in November 2005. Of the 14 teams entered, all but one were from the HFD (the non-HFD team was from State Crash).

Games were held at Crane Park and Central Oahu Regional Park (CORP). Upon completion of the regular season, the playoffs got under way. After the smoke cleared and the pulled hamstrings mended, four teams faced off in the semi-finals: Administrative Services Bureau, Bn 4/1, Bn 3/2, and Bns 4&5/3. The Bns 4&5/3 team defeated Bn 3/2 in the championship game. Members of the championship team (including wives, children, part-time players, and supporters) were:

Coach Bud Sardinha	Eric Adams	Sheldon Horiuchi
Clem Hew	Ethan Aea	Tory Tamayose
Lance Gaspar	Tim Rapoza	Ryan Kaleo
Henry Yokoyama	Gordon Villa	Koa Skeen
Nick Danielson	Reed Kawachika	Mike Jones
Chad Rodgers	Kory Kaneshiro	

I would like to thank the following for assisting me in running the league: Ray Yamashita (town liason), Keola Koki (scheduling), and Ivan Kaneshiro (equipment). Also, a big mahalo to Bobby Lee and the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association for supplementing the costs for umpires, Baba Mahoe and the Athletic Association for the softballs and bases, and especially Chad Rodgers for stepping up and providing quality officiating at a reasonable price and coordinating the umpires for every game.

As for this coming year's season, I attended a users meeting for the CORP but have not received confirmation on dates for our use. I'm hoping to start a little earlier this year, possibly in May, but it depends on the availability of fields.

I encourage everyone to come out and partake in friendly competition, a family night out, camaraderie, and a chance to meet fellow fire fighters from other battalions and platoons.

Aloha, and play ball!

PERMANENT HOME FOR HFD

The Honolulu Fire Department moved from the Duty Free building site at 3375 Koapaka Street to its new permanent home at 636 South Street on February 17-20, 2006. The building is situated on 20,449 square feet of property formerly owned by Chevron USA. The blessing and groundbreaking ceremony was held on September 5, 2003. The three-story building is the first permanent home for the Fire Chief and his executive and administrative staff, and the old Kakaako Fire Station will be renovated to serve as an educational fire museum.

The contract was awarded for \$14,975,000. The Design/Build team included Urban Works (architects for the headquarters), Lancor Architects (for the museum), and Okada Trucking (building contractor).

A small, internal blessing ceremony was held on February 21 prior to the opening of the building. A formal dedication will be held upon completion of all phases of the project, which includes exterior areas of the headquarters and renovations of the museum and the current Kakaako station (Station 9) later this year.



Groundbreaking



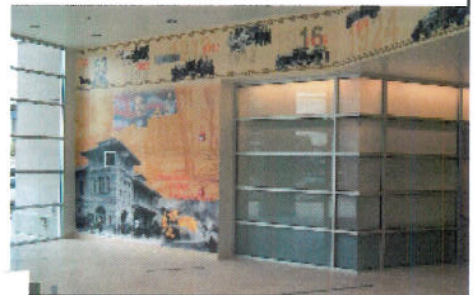
Front View



Front Entrance



Auditorium



Lobby and Photo Mural



Fire Chief's Office



WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN 1985? by Battalion Chief Edward Simeona

What were you doing in 1985?

- Chief Kahooahanohano was Fire 1
- The Honolulu Fire Department (HFD) was made up of 977 uniformed and 29 civilian personnel
- We had only:
 - Four battalions
 - 39 stations
 - 38 engines, 10 ladders, two rescue units, one snorkel, one fireboat, and two helicopters
- Phase I of the "new" training center was in progress
- The Drug Screening program was only at the discussion level
- Recruit classes were still held at the Water Front station facility
 - Class #61 completed 3 ½ months of training
 - Class #62 did 13 weeks and was the first class to utilize the new Training Center Drill Tower
- HFD responded to 9,546 incidents
 - 4,367 fires
 - 3,326 rescues and emergencies
 - 1,686 co-responses
 - 167 other incidents
- HFD had an operating budget of \$28,917,660.10
- "Sparky" was born

Since the HFD had no "official mascot," unlike many mainland departments, a contest was announced to the public for a mascot to be used on all community publications and to appear at schools and public functions. Sev-

eral hundred cartoonists responded and from those, 30 entries were chosen. A panel of five judges (Kapiolani Children's Hospital Special Events Director Billie Carmack, KITV anchor Leesa Clark, Joyce Fasi, KCCN disc jockey Honolulu Skylark, and entertainer Danny Kaleikini) were appointed. They whittled the 30 down to five semi-finalists: a mongoose, a poi dog, a menehune, a fire hydrant, and a fire safety bug. So who was our winning cartoonist? Mark Wagenman, who unfortunately for him, lived in B-block of the Oahu Community Corrections Center, but fortunately for HFD, was already an established cartoonist for the prison's monthly publication. The Fire Chief and the Mayor of Honolulu announced the winner and his conception, Sparky, to the public in July 1985. Sparky's first official public appearance was at the HFD Fun Run on September 29, 1985. As they say, "The Rest is History." Where were you doing at that time?



(1) Photo by Gregory Yamamoto, Honolulu Advertiser (1985)

(2) Excerpts from reporter Lois Taylor, Honolulu Star Bulletin (1985)

PROMOTIONS & NEW HIRES

Fire Chief

Kenneth G. Silva

Deputy Fire Chief

Alvin K. Tomita

Assistant Chief

Manuel Neves

Thomas Perkins

Battalion Chief

Edward Hunter

Emmit Kane

Private Secretary II

Lynn Takahara

Secretary III

Sheryl Nakama

NEW HIRES

Private Secretary I

Claire Kodama

Senior Clerk Typist

Laura Chen

CONGRATULATIONS



RETIREMENTS



Attilio K. Leonardi, Fire Chief

January 4, 1971 - January 15, 2006

35 years

John Clark, Deputy Fire Chief

February 17, 1971 - December 30, 2005

34 years, 11 months

Marshall Giddens, Fire Captain

November 8, 1976 - December 30, 2005

29 years

Guy Gora, Fire Captain

February 14, 1975 - December 30, 2005

30 years, 10 months

Michael J. Jewett, Fire Captain

July 1, 1981 - December 30, 2005

24 years, 5 months

Melvin Pang, Fire Captain

September 1976 - December 30, 2005

28 years, 10 months

Leslie Yee Hoy, Fire Fighter III

January 16, 1976 - December 30, 2005

29 years, 11 months

Thomas K. Lau, Fire Fighter III

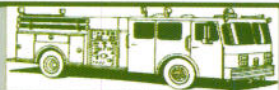
July 26, 1976 - December 30, 2005

29 years, 5 months

Carole Fukuda, Sr. Clerk Typist

May 17, 1984 - December 30, 2005

21 years, 7 months



LAST ALARM



Fire Fighter III Allan D. L. Wong

January 8, 2006

Appointed August 1, 1977

25 years

Last assignment - Fire Prevention Bureau



Fire Captain George M. Beazley

February 4, 2006

Appointed March 1, 1942

30 years, 5 months

Last assignment - Ladder 1/2



CIVILIAN CORNER

Claire Kodama

Private Secretary I

Office of the Fire Chief

The Hale Ahi News would like to welcome Claire Kodama to the HFD. Claire is the Secretary to Deputy Fire Chief Alvin Tomita, and her main responsibility is to provide clerical support to him and the Department. Claire was previously the Office Manager for the House Majority Leader, Representative Marcus Oshiro. Her previous City employment includes Secretary to the Director of the Department of Budget and Fiscal Services, Secretary to the Deputy Director of the Department of Facility Maintenance, and Neighborhood Assistant with the Neighborhood Commission Office.

Claire enjoys fishing, hunting, playing soccer, and spending time with her husband (FF I Dwayne Kodama, E8/3) and their two sons Chason (age 4) and Chanson (age 1½).

"I have wanted to work for the Department for a long time, and I can't say enough good things about being here. It feels good not only to be able to serve the Department, but to come back 'home' to the City as well."



ANNIVERSARIES JANUARY - MARCH

30 Years

William Kaai Jr.
Charlie Bright

15 Years

Ian Ah Mook Sang
Eugene Alvarado
Darryl Aoki
Glenn Awakuni
Michael Bunner
Michael Chung
Robert Kalae Data
Jason Denis
Neal Detwiler
Todd Hugo
Warren Iseke
Brian Kaaa
Ricky Mamiya
Paul McGhiey
Edmund McShane
Eric Morgado
Kyle Nakakura
Michael Nakano
Mark Ogoso
James Reyes Jr.
Gifford Shon
Brandon Uehara
Brian Zablan

10 Years

Kyle Ah Loo
James Apana
Douglas Bennett
Ralen Chang
Clayton Choo Jr.
John Coe Jr.
Scot Demotta
Michael Gleason
Sheldon Hao



Patrick Hepton
Jeffrey Hooker
Sean Iida
Mark Inay
Austin-Duane Kaiu
Michael Kawasaki
Joseph Kostih
Kevin Lyons
LeRoy Malterre
Ross McKeague
Clifford Miller
David Morgan
Leroy Mullettner II
Michael O'Sullivan
Jason Racoma
Dean Stowell
William Thornock
Patrick Tosaki
Craig Uchimura
Michael Waggoner
Russell Wong
David Yokoi

5 Years

Aaron Abergas
Duane Albrecht
Simeon Alo
Sean Arakaki
Christopher Cabasa
Kealiiakui Cambra
Benjamin Cazimero Jr.
George Cortez
Randolph Ebright
Joseph Estrera Jr.
Casey Ferreira
Thomas Fujimoto
Anthony Gaspar
Randal Gibo
Cory Hamaishi
Eric Hammond
Kawika Harbottle
Dean Hashimoto
Robert Holland
Tyson Ikehara
Royce Ishida
Sean Kamai
Reid Kawano
Steven Keawe



Raeder Kinney Jr.
Sean Kitamura
Marc Kunimitsu
Shawn Kuratani
Michael Lee
Edward Lee Jr.
Spencer Lonoae'a
Kenneth Mau
Richie Mitsumoto
Sean Monahan
Channing Morita
Scott Moura
Glen Nakamura
Joel Nakaya
Kevin Neves
Nolan Nip
Christopher Nolan
Kenneth Oishi
Alan Oliveira
Carl Otsuka
Cade Oyadomari
Morgan Parker
Larry Pasion
Kaimi Pelekai Jr.
Aldann Rico
Barron Rico
Corey Silva
Ryan Stevenson
Christopher Takayama
Craig Tamashiro
Tory Tamayose
Jonathan Ting
Kevin Won
Randall Wong
Edmund Wong Leong
Tad Yamashita
Kaleo Young

